



Russell Range mixed thicket complexes

TEC Description

The community consists of an open mallee or shrub mallee-heath on mid to upper slopes of the Russell Range. Typical species are *Eucalyptus doratoxylon* (spearwood mallee), *Adenanthos oreophilus*, *Dampiera parvifolia* (many-bracted dampiera), *Dielsiodoxa oligarrhenoides*, *Chorizema nervosum*, *Acacia triptycha*, *Hakea pandanicarpa*, *Daviesia grossa*, and the endemic priority taxa *Banksia prolata* subsp. *archeos* (priority 2), *Beaufortia raggedensis* (Mt Ragged beaufortia), *Rhadinothamnus rudis* subsp. *linearis* (priority 4) *Darwinia* sp. Mt Ragged (priority 2) and *Gastrolobium tergiversum* (priority 2). Other priority flora include *Beyeria simplex* (priority 2), *Dielsiodoxa propullulans* (priority 2), *Leucopogon apiculatus* (priority 3), *Leucopogon rotundifolius* (priority 3), *Opercularia hirsuta* (silky-haired stinkweed) (priority 2), *Scaevola brookeana* (priority 2), *Gastrolobium pycnostachyum* (Mt Ragged poison) (priority 2) and *Kennedia beckxiana* (Cape Arid kennedia) (priority 4) which occur mainly on the mid-lower slopes. *Anthocercis viscosa* (sticky tailflower) is common on granite on the south coast from Walpole to Cape Arid, and occurs at its inland or eastern limit on Mt Ragged.



Distribution

The community is restricted to the Russell Range system, east of Esperance in Cape Arid National Park and an unnamed nature reserve.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: South Coast

DBCA District: Esperance

Local Government Authority: Shire of Esperance

Habitat Requirements

The community is confined to mountain slopes, peaks, gullies and drainage depressions on shallow soils of grey-brown sandy loam over (predominately) quartzite on Mount Dean, Brooks Peak, Mount Ragged, Mount Esmond and Woolgrah Hill.

Indigenous Interests

An Aboriginal Sites Register is kept by the Department of Indigenous Affairs. Mt Ragged is a registered site. The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), an umbrella group, covers the areas where this community occurs. Traditional owner group: Ngadjunmaia.

Conservation Status

Listed as vulnerable under WA Minister Environmentally Sensitive Areas list in policy. It is also a component of the Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrublands of the Southeast Coastal Floristic Province of Western Australia (Kwongkan community), that is ranked Endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Threatening Processes

The major threats to the community are dieback caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, too frequent fire, feral animals and inappropriate recreational activity.

Recovery Plan

A recovery plan is recommended for the community. Priority recovery actions include developing a dieback control program that encompasses regular monitoring to detect early signs of pathogen infestation, implementation of a dieback hygiene plan, and installation of interpretation signs to be located at the base of the walk trail.

Citation

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. (2020). Recovery plans and interim recovery plans <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities/wa-s-threatened-ecological-communities>

Key References

- Barrett, S. (1996). Biological survey of mountains of southern Western Australia. Unpublished report by Department of Conservation and Land Management for the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. Western Australia.
- Beard J. S. (1973). The vegetation of the Esperance and Malcolm Areas, Western Australia. Map and explanatory memoir, 1:250,000 series. Vegmap Publications, Perth.
- Hopkins A. J. M, Keighery G. J. and Marchant N. G. (1983). Species-rich uplands of south-western Australia. Proc. Ecol. Soc. Aust. 12, 15-26.

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